

1466 d 24

SCACCHIA, LUDUS:

A

P O E M

ON THE

GAME of CHESS.

WRITTEN BY

MARCUS HIERONYMUS VIDA.

AND

TRANSLATED into ENGLISH VERSE

BY

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D U B L I N :

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7/8



TO
HIS GRACE
G E O R G E,
Lord Archbishop of ARMAGH,
PRIMATE and METROPOLITAN of
All IRELAND.

WHEN Leo's priesthood blest'd Hesperian states,
And call'd the muses to their antient seats,
In Latian lands fair science rais'd her head,
And Learning bloom'd, though liberty lay dead,
Nor shall a British isle, where freedom reigns,
Neglected find no Patron for it's strains ;

iv DEDICATION.

Nor Phœbus shall forsake Ierne's climes,
Where Saints and Druids sung in early times ;
Her mitred Leo fans that antient fire,
And wakes her isle's hereditary lyre.

Too long our prelates might, with cause, refuse
To spend life's waneing period with the muse ;
Patient we view'd those orbs, at setting day,
Descend unclouded, but with feeble ray ;
Oft came still ev'ning on, with twilight cool,
And oft we hop'd a warmer sun might rule ;
He shines at last in full meridian height,
And glads the land at once with heat and light.
Chear'd by his beams, the muse attempts to sing,
Yet, conscious of her own unpractis'd wing,
With caution dares the steep Parnassian hills,
Supported on the Roman eagle's quills.

Trinity-College, Dublin,
March 12, 1749-50.

P R E-

P R E F A C E.

SCACCHIA is derived from Scach, signifying in the Oriental language a King. but Vida gives it a poetical Etymology from Scacchis, a Nymph of the river Serius in Italy, whose name her lover Mercury gave to the game.

Though Vida has described the situation, and motion of the men, with great elegance and perspicuity; yet for the advantage of those who are wholly unacquainted with them, there is a plate annex'd, where the initial letters of each warriour's name stand exactly as they are array'd for battle. but it must be observed that among us three of the names have been changed; the Archer is called a Bishop, the Elephant a Rook, and the Private Soldiers or Foot, Pawns.

K. The King moves in ev'ry direction, forward, backward, sideway or obliquely; but only the distance of one square at each motion. but at his first move (if the space between him and the Elephant are clear) he may bring the Elephant up to his side, and then move to the other side of the Elephant. this is called Castling.

Q. The Queen moves in every direction, and to any distance.

A. The Archer only in the oblique direction, but to any distance.

H. The

H. The Horseman or Knight, moves in a kind of curve, from a black square to any the nearest white but one, and from a white to any nearest black but one. his distance is two squares, and he is the only one that can go over another's head.

E. The Elephant has all the powers of the Queen, except her oblique motion.

P. The Private Soldiers or Foot move only strait forward, except when they kill, which they always do by an oblique motion. they go but one square at a time, except at their first onset, when they are allow'd to move two.

Every man stands in the place of him whom he kills.

The battle is only won by killing the King ; this is called Check Mat, from Scach Mat, i. e. the King is dead.

The King is said to be in Stale Mat when he stands safe, but cannot move without being killed ; this also with the Orientals loses him the battle ; the Italians make it only a drawn fight ; but with us it is the loss of the battle to him who reduces his opponent's King to this situation.

When a Queen is killed, a Private Soldier who can advance to the farthest line becomes a Queen ; but there can be but one Queen at once.

It is usual to begin the game by advancing the Soldier who stands before the King or Queen two squares.

MARCI



MARCI HIERONYMI
 V I D Æ
 S C A C C H I A,
 L U D U S.

LUDIMUS effigiem belli, simulataque veris
 Prælia, buxo acies fictas, et ludicra regna :

Ut gemini inter se reges, albusque nigerque,

Pro laude oppositi, certent bicoloribus armis.

Dicite, Seriades Nymphæ, certamina tanta,

5

Carminibus

C H E S S :

A POEM OF

MARCUS HIERONYMUS

V I D A.

HOW mimic realms, and pageant hofts engage
In sportive arms, with wars fictitious rage ;

And scepter'd Kings, a fable and a white

Contend for fame, oppos'd in mortal fight,

We sing. ye Serian Nymphs assist the lay 5

Through paths yet unillum'd by Pæan's ray.

Carminibus prorsus vatum illibata priorum.

Nulla via est: tamen ire juvat, quo me rapit ardor,

Inviaque audaci propero tentare juvena.

Vos per inaccessible rupes, et inhospita euntem

Saxa, Deæ, regite, ac secretum ostendite callem. 10

Vos hujus ludi in primis meminisse necesse est:

Vos primæ studia hæc Italiam monstrastis in oris,

Scacchidis egregiæ monumentum insigne sororis.

Juppiter Æthiopum sedes, et Memnonis arva

Iverat, Oceani mensas dignatus amici, 15

Qui sibi tum optatis junxit Tellurem hymenæis.

Affuit una omnis Superûm chorus: omnia festo

Æquoris immensi resonabant littora plausu.

Ut

Vent'rous and bold, with youthful ardor fir'd,
We tempt those heights where never bard aspir'd ;
O're rocks, and wastes untrod, allur'd to dip
In springs untasted by poetic lip. 10
Through the lone wilds, and o'er each rugged mass,
O point, ye Naïd train, the secret pass.
Ye taught Hesperia first the Scacchian game,
Illustrious record of your sister's name.

To Memnon's fields, and peaceful Æthiop lands, 15
Where, wide display'd, the watry empire stands,
Great Jove descending, shar'd the genial feast
Of sage Oceanus, his antient guest ;
Just then the Sire appear'd in nuptial pride,
To Tellus join'd, his ever-blooming bride ; 20
With Jove assembling, all the heav'nly powers
To joys immortal gave the blisful hours :
Loud rung the deep with hymeneal mirth,
And shores re-echo'd from the realms of earth.

When

Ut dapibus compressa fames, mensæque remotæ,

Quo Superûm mentes ludo mulceret inani,

20

Oceanus tabulam afferri jubet interpictam.

Sexaginta insunt et quatuor ordine sedes

Octono ; parte ex omni, via limite quadrat

Ordinibus paribus ; necnon forma omnibus una

Sedibus, æquale et spatium, sed non color unus :

25

Alternant semper variæ, subeuntque vicissim

Albentes nigris ; testudo picta superne

Qualia devexo gestat discrimina tergo.

Tum Superis tacite secum mirantibus inquit :

Marti aptam sedem, ludicraque castra videtis :

30

Hoc campo adversas acies spectare licebit

Oppositis signis belli simulacra ciere ;

Quæ

C H E S S.

7

When, as at length, with sweet refection blest'd 25
 No more th' Immortals ply'd the sumptuous feast,
 Their social host with sports amusing tries
 To sooth the sacred senate of the skies.
 Straight at his nod, a pictur'd plane was brought,
 In equal squares of white and fable wrought. 30
 Twice thirty two alternate spots appear,
 Varying from black to white, and form a square ;
 Successive chang'd, the diff'rent colours show
 Eight rows of spots, eight spots in ev'ry row ;
 So painted, and with stains contrasting fill'd, 35
 The speckled tortoise bears his horny shield.
 With silent gaze the wond'ring Gods admire
 It's curious form ; when thus the antient Sire :
 Ye now behold the scene of artful wars,
 Fictitious camps, and fields devote to Mars : 40
 Here shall ye see two diff'rent hosts display
 Their mimic standards, and dispute the day ;

A Sport

Quæ quondam sub aquis gaudent spectacula tueri

Nereides, vastique omnis gens accola ponti ;

Siquando placidum mare, et humida regna quiêrunt. 35

En vero simulata adfunt qui prælia ludant.

Sic ait ; et versa in tabulam depromptit ab urna

Arte laboratam buxum, simulataque nostris

Corpora, torno acies fictas, albasque, nigrasque ;

Agmina bina pari numeroque, et viribus æquis ; 40

Bis nivea cum veste octo, totidemque nigranti.

Ut variæ facies, pariter sunt et sua cuique

Nomina, diversum munus, non æqua potestas.

Illic et reges paribus capita alta coronis,

Et regum pariter nuptas in bella paratas, 45

Cernere erat : sunt qui pedibus certamina inire

Sueti ;

A sport, which every native of the main
Views with delight, through all our watry reign,
When rougher blasts in rocky caverns sleep, 45
And gales soft-breezing lull the silent deep :
But lo the troops impatient to engage
In wars fierce semblance, and begin the rage.

He spoke ; and from an urn inverted drew
Upon the plane the forms of various hue, 50
Two sculptur'd hosts a sable and a white,
The same in number, and of equal might.
Twice eight in black attire, a gloomy foe,
Oppos'd an equal train in robes of snow ;
The featur'd wood proclaim'd the carver's art, 55
And life's warm image glow'd in ev'ry part.
Nor yet was ev'ry warrior's pow'r the same,
Each office vary'd with each form and name :
For sov'reign kings in regal pomp appear,
With consort queens advancing to the war ; 60

Sueti ; sunt et equis qui malint, quique sagittis ;

Nec deest quæ ferat armatas in prælia turres

Bellua ; utrinque Indos credas spectare elephantes.

Jamque aciem in versum statuunt, structæque cohortes

Procedunt campo, castrisque locantur utrisque. 51

Linea principio sublimes ultima reges

Parte utraque capit, quartis in sedibus ambos

Tractu eodem adversos inter se ; sex tamen æquis

In medio sedes spatiis hinc inde relictæ : 55

Sede albus sese nigra tenet, ater in alba.

Proxima reginas capit orbita : regibus ambæ

Hærent, quæque suo, dextrum latus altera, lævum

Altera lege datis tangunt stationibus ; atrumque

Atra tenet campum, spatio stat candida in albo, 60

Et proprium servant prima statione colorem,

Inde sagittiferi juvenes de gente nigranti

Stant

Some wound on foot, and some on courfers light,
Others with bows provoke the distant fight ;
And elephants, beneath their moving row'rs,
Advance with all the battles missive show'rs.

And now th' encamping armies wide display 65
Their glitt'ring files and range in meet array.
High o'er their troops the lofty monarchs shine
On the fourth station of each hindmost line,
In the same pass oppos'd, and o'er the plain,
From chief to chief, six stations intervene : 70
On sable ground the lucid Monarch stands,
A snowy spot the swarthy King commands.
Close by her Lord appears each royal bride,
One takes the right, and one the weaker side,
Each, from her kindred colour, fills a space, 75
Match'd to her hue, and tinctur'd like her face.
Next to the royal pair, on either hand
Two youths select from out their forces stand,

Stant gemini, totidem pariter candore nivali ;
Nomen Areiphilos Graii fecere vocantes,
Quod Marti ante alios cari fera bella laceffant. 65
Continuò hos inter rex, necnon regia conjux
Claudentur medii : duo dehinc utrinque corufci
Auratis equites fagulis, cristisque decori,
Cornipedes in aperta parant certamina Martis.
Tum geminæ, velut extremis in cornibus, arces 70
Hinc atque hinc altis stant propugnacula muris,
Quas dorso immanes gestant in bella elephanti.
Postremo subeunt octo hinc atque inde secundis
Ordinibus pedites, castrisque armantur utrisque
Armigeri partim regis, partimque ministræ 75
Virginis armisonæ, qui prima pericula belli,
Congressusque ineant primos, pugnamque laceffant.
Non aliter campis legio se buxea utrinque

Composuit

Skilful with shafts to ply the distant foe,
And rouse fierce battle with the sounding bow. 80
By these close joining, to the left and right
On either side, appears a warrior knight,
In glitt'ring garbs distinguish'd from the rest,
With broider'd tunic, and a gilded crest ;
Mounted on prancing steeds their arms they wield, 85
Prepar'd to scour along the champion field.
Then rise two elephants with tow'rs, afar
Fix'd on th' extremes to guard the flanks of war.
And lastly, eight inferior warriors shine
Before their chiefs, upon the frontmost line, 90
Men rang'd with maids of amazonian name,
Those serve the Prince, and these the royal dame ;
Foremost advanc'd, the kindling combat dare,
And brave the foe, and rouse the storms of war.
Thus stood each host, the sable and the white, 95
In double range extended for the fight ;

As

Composuit duplici digestis ordine turmis,

Adversisque ambæ fulsere coloribus alæ,

80

Quam Gallorum acies, Alpino frigore lactea

Corpora, si tendant albis in prælia signis,

Auroræ populos contra, et Phaethonte perustos

Insano Æthiopas, et nigri Memnonis alas.

Tum pater Oceanus rursus sic ore locutus :

85

Cœlicolæ, jam quænam acies, quæ castra, videtis :

Discite nunc (neque enim sunt hæc sine legibus arma)

Certandi leges, nequeant quas tendere contra.

Principio alterni reges in prælia mittunt

Quem pugnæ numero ex omni elegere suorum.

90

Si niger arma ferens primus processit in æquor,

Continuò adversum semper se candidus offert ;

Nec plures licet ire simul, facto agmine, in hostem.

Propositum cunctis unum, studium omnibus unum,

Obsessos

As when the banner'd force of Gaul alarms
The realms of Memnon with its northern swarms,
And snowy squadrons, bleach'd with Alpine air,
Front the fierce legions of the fultry sphere, 100
A gloomy race, with lasting fable dy'd
By madding Phaethon's presumptuous pride.

Then thus began the hoary fire again :
Ye see the battle form'd, cœlestial train ;
Now learn the steady laws of martial right, 105
For sacred laws are umpires of the fight.
If then advancing from the fable bands
A warrior first in threatful posture stands,
Immediate from the standards of the white
One champion only moves to meet the fight ; 110
No crowds detach'd from either army go,
Nor press in numbers on a single foe,
One mighty purpose fills each warriors breast,
Fast to confine their rival king distress'd,

Doom'd

Obsessos reges inimicæ claudere gentis,

95

Ne quo impune queant fugere, atque instantia fata

Evitare : etemim capiunt ita prælia finem.

Haud tamen interea cuneis obstantibus ultro

Parcunt ; sed citius quo regem sternere leto

Desertum evaleant, cædunt ferro obvia passim

100

Agmina : rarefcunt hîc illic funere semper

Utraque castra novo, magis ac magis arca belli

Picturata patet ; sternuntque caduntque vicissim.

Sed cædentem opus est sublato protinus hostis

Successisse loco, et conatus vindicis alæ

105

Sustinuisse semel : mox, si vitaverit ictum,

Inde referre licet se in tutum præpete planta.

At pedites prohibent leges certaminis unos,

Cum semel exierint, (facilis jactura) reverti.

Nec vero incessus cunctis bellantibus idem,

110

Pugnandive

Doom'd to the sword, and from assistance far : 115

This ends the fortune, and the toils of war.

For this the work of death is hotly ply'd,

And paths still widen'd to the monarch's side,

The thinn'd battalions less obstruct the fight,

And more and more appears the field of fight ; 120

From side to side retorted slaughter bounds,

And death returns for death, and wounds for wounds.

Nor fearful must they give the fatal blow,

Then swift retiring shun the vengeful foe ;

The laws decree, that every warrior stand 125

Seiz'd of his post who felt his slaught'ring hand ;

There must he once withstand the stroke of fate,

And if he 'scape the blow, may then retreat.

Not so the soldiers of the vulgar train,

These, once advanc'd, can ne'er return again, 130

Nor yet alike each warrior gives the wound,

Nor equal treads along the hostile ground :

D

The

Pugnandive modus : pedites in prælia cuntes
Evaleant unam tantum transmittere sedem ;
Inque hostem tendunt adversi, et limite recto.
Congressu tamen in primo fas longius ire,
Et duplicare gradus concessum : at comminus hostem
Cum feriunt, ictum obliquant, et vulnera furtim 116
Intentant semper lateri, cavaque ilia cædunt.
Sed gemini claudunt aciem qui hinc inde elephantii,
Cum turres in bella gerunt, ac prælia miscent ;
Recta fronte valent, dextra, lævaque, retroque, 120
Ferre aditum contra, campumque impune per omnem
Proruere, ac totis passim dare funera castris.
Ne tamen obliquis occultent nixibus ictum ;
Qui tantum mos concessus pugnantibus arcu,
Dilectis Marti ante alios : nam semper uterque 125
Fertur in obliquum, spatiis nigrantibus alter,

Alter

The foot battalions, stinted in their gait,
Proceed by single steps, and forward straight,
Save at the first, when o'er the nearest row 135
They stride advancing to the distant foe :
But when they strike, their wounds oblique impress
Pierce where the shorter ribs forsake the chest.
The huge-limb'd elephants that guard the flanks,
And move with nodding turrets thro' the ranks, 140
From right to left, or front, or backward go,
And wound afar each quarter of the foe ;
But never indirectly march, nor strike
With unsuspected blows impress'd oblique ;
This movement, and this only, is allow'd 145
To the keen youths that aim the feather'd wood :
Through all the camp their sloping strides are trac'd,
Fix'd to that colour where they first were plac'd,
One treads the white, and one the fable path
Unchang'd, and sends afar the flying death. 150

Alter candenti semper se limite versat ;

Directisque incunt ambo fera bella sagittis.

Nec variare licet, quamvis fas ire per omnem

Hinc atque hinc campum, atque omnes percurrere sedes.

Insultat sonipes ferus, atque repugnat habenis : 131

Nunquam continuo stipata per agmina ductu

Procurrit : tantum sursum sese arduus effert

Semper, et in gyrum gressus magno impete lunat

Curvatos, duplicemque datur transmittere sedem. 135

Si nigrante prius campo expectaverit, album

Mox petere, et sedis semper mutare colorem

Lex jubet, ac certo semper se sistere saltu.

At regina, furens animis, pars optima belli,

In frontem, in terga, ac dextram, lævamque movetur,

Itque iter obliquum, sed semper tramite recto 141

Procedit ; neque enim curvato insurgere saltu

Cornipedum

Th' impatient courser, struggling on the rein,
 Bends to the fight, and eager views the plain ;
 Nor springs direct, but rising from the ground,
 Wheels on his pasterns with a circling bound ;
 High o'er the files appears his winding track, 155
 Alternate vary'd still from white to black ;
 Each vig'rous leap a double space commands,
 And steady fixing on the third he stands.

The furious Queen, the soul of all the fight, *Ὁ γυνὴν ἀνδρῶν*
 Through all the field exerts superiour might ; *ὡκυπέτα γυνή* 160
 From side to side, from front to rear she flies,
 Or rushes where the sloping passage lies,
 Yet still direct, by virgin shame forbid
 To bound o'er heroes like the circling steed :
 But skill'd in ev'ry other art of war, 165
 She darts like light'ning, and destroys afar,
 If from her own, or from th' opposing train,
 Fix'd in her road, no warrior intervene ;

For

Cornipedum de more licet : non terminus olli,
Nec cursûs meta ulla datur : quocunque libido
Impulerit, licet ire ; modò ne ex agmine quisquam 145
Hostilive, fuove aditus occludat cunti.
Nulli etenim super educto fas agmina saltu
Transiliisse : equiti tantum hæc concessa potestas.
Cautiùs arma movent gentis regnator uterque,
In quibus est omnis spes, ac fiducia belli. 150
Omnibus, incolumi rege, stat cernere ferro ;
Sublato, pugna excedunt, et castra relinquunt :
Ille adeo in bello captus secum omnia vertit.
Ergo, hærens cunctatur ; eum venerantur, et omnes
Agmine circumstant denso, mediumque tuentur : 155
Utque armis sæpe eripiant, sua corpora bello
Objiciunt, mortemque optant pro rege pacisci.
Non illi studium ferendi, aut arma ciendi :

For this alike bounds all the pow'rs of fight,
Save the proud steed that bears th' impetuous knight. 170
Cautious the rival princes tempt the fray,
For on their safety hangs the doubtful day :
The King preserv'd, the lab'ring war relies
On arts and arms, with him the combat dies ;
With him each chief desponding quits the strife : 175
So dear, so fatal is their Monarch's life.
Careful he moves, his subjects circle round,
And thick protect him with a living mound ;
Snatch him from fate, and slain in his defence,
Pour out their lives, a ransom for their prince. 180
His study lies not to annoy the foe,
But skilful guard against th' impending blow :
Yet not the boldest may provoke his might,
Or daring stand confronted in his fight ;
His power in all directions awes the plain, 185
Nor bears his hand the sov'reign sword in vain.

But,

Se tegere est fatis, atque instantia fata cavere.

Haud tamen obtulerit se quisquam impune propinquum

Obvius ; ex omni nam summum parte nocendi 161

Jus habet : ille quidem haud procurrare longiùs aufit ;

Sed postquam auspiciis primis progressus ab aula

Mutavit sedes proprias, non ampliùs uno

Ulteriùs fas ire gradu, seu vulneret hostem, 165

Seu vim tela ferant nullam, atque innoxius erret.

Hic mos certandi, hæc belli antiquissima jura.

Nunc aciem inter se certantes cernite utramque.

Sic ait : at quoniam, quoties fera bella fatigant

Mortales, Superi, studiis diversa foventes, 170

Ipsi etiam inter sese odiis bellantur iniquis,

Maximaque interdum toto ardent prælia cœlo ;

Juppiter omnipotens folio rex fatus ab alto

Omnes

But, limited by laws, he stands debarr'd
Of wide excursions from his faithful guard,
And, when the lab'ring war demands his aid,
His efforts all by single steps are made, 190
Whether he moves to wound the hostile train,
Or harmless wanders o'er th'embattled plain.
Such are the rights, preserv'd from earliest date,
And such the laws that rule each rival state.
Now turn, Cœlestials, to a nobler fight, 195
Attend the moving hosts, and view the fight.

He ended ; but, because, when mortal fray
Fatigues with lab'ring strife the sons of clay,
The warring Gods in factious parties join,
And mix with human force their pow'rs divine ; 200
Lest gath'ring strength infectious wrath shou'd rise,
And rage begun on earth invade the skies,
High from his throne all-pow'rful Jove commands
That no Immortal join the list'd bands,

E

Nor

Omnes abstinuisse jubet mortalibus armis ;

Atque minis, ne quem foveant perterret acerbis. 175

Tum Phœbum vocat intonsum, Atlantisque nepotem,

Egregium furto peperit quem candida Maia,

Insignes ambos facie, & florentibus annis.

Nondum Mercurius levibus talaria plantis

Addiderat : nondum Titania lumina agebat 180

Per. liquidum curru gemmato Phœbus Olympum,

Tantum humeros pharetrâ insignis, et crinibus aureis.

Hos Pater adversis solos decernere jussit

Inter se studiis, et ludicra bella fovere,

Ac partes tutari ambas, quas vellet uterque : 185

Necnon proposuit victori præmia digna.

Dii magni federe : Deûm stat turba minorum

Circumfusa ; caveant sed lege, et fœdere pacto,

Ne quisquam, voce aut nutu, ludentibus ausit

Prævisos

Nor favour either host with partial care ; 205

And binds his fix'd decree with threats severe ;

Then calls Latona's offspring, and the boy

For cunning fam'd, Atlantian Maia's joy ;

Equal in years, of equal beauty both,

E'er manhood dawn'd upon the bloom of youth. 210

Nor Hermes' feet had yet improv'd their flight,

With wings smooth-gliding through the realms of light ;

Nor Phœbus, on the glitt'ring car of day,

Steer'd his swift coursers through the solar way ;

His shoulders only bore the quiver's pride, 215

And locks of gold fell waving by it's side.

To these sequester'd from the sons of light,

Their Sirē commits the conduct of the fight ;

With skill oppos'd to guide each favour'd host,

And rich rewards await the victor's boast. 220

The chief were seated, while th' inferior crowd

Of Gods around the rival armies stood ;

Prævisos monstrare iētus. quem denique primum 190
Sors inferre aciem vocet, atque invadere Martem,
Quæsitum : primumque locum certaminis albo
Ductori tulit, ut quem vellet primus in hostem
Mitteret : id sanè magni referre putabant.
Tum tacitus secum versat, quem ducere contra 195
Conveniat, peditemque jubet procedere campum
In medium, qui reginam dirimebat ab hoste. !
Ille gradus duplices superat : cui tum arbiter ater
Ipse etiam adversum recto de gente nigranti
Tramite agit peditem, atque jubet subsistere contra 200
Advenientem hostem, paribusque occurrere in armis.
Stant ergo adversis inter se frontibus ambo,
In mediis campi spatiis, ac mutua tentant
Vulnera, nequicquam : neque enim vis ulla nocendi est
Armigeris,

But first enjoin'd, each whisper to confine,
 And each expressive look, and private sign.
 And now the lots decide, no trivial chance, 225
 Which eager foe shall first in arms advance :
 The urn decrees, that from the snowy train
 A champion first impell'd shou'd dare the plain :
 Their leader straight surveys his troops with care ;
 Weighs all their pow'rs ; then singles to the war 230
 A soldier light of foot who stood between
 The rival army and his lucid Queen :
 Prompt he obeys, and o'er a double row
 Leaps from his station, and defies the foe.
 To check his boasting, from the sable bands 235
 Advanc'd in equal arms a warrior stands.
 Thus front to front oppos'd, with fruitless shew
 They raise their swords, and meditate the blow ;
 On the same pass each safe maintains his ground,
 For vulgar arms, are thus forbid to wound. 240

And

Armigeris, tractu dum miscent prælia eodem. 205

Subsidio focii dextra, lævaque frequentes

Hinc atque hinc subeunt, late et loca milite complent,

Alternantque vices : necdum tamen horrida miscent

Prælia, sed placidus mediis Mars ludit in armis ;

Excursusque breves tentant, tutique tenent se. 210

Jamque pedes nigri rectoris, qui prior hostem

Contra iit, obliquum læva clam strinxerat ensen,

Atque album e mediis peditem citus abstulit armis,

Illiusque locum arripuit præstantibus ausis :

Ah miser ! instantem lateri non viderat hostem ; 215

Ipse etiam cadit, et pugnæ in morte relinquit.

Tum cautus fuscæ regnator gentis ab aula

Subduxit sese media, penitusque repôstis

Castrorum latebris extrema in fauce recondit,

Et peditum cuneis stipantibus abditus hæsit. 220

Nec

And now from either host, to left and right,
Their friends advancing fill the plains of fight ;
Nor yet fell slaughter stalks with horrid jar,
But Mars still gently sports amidst the war :
By turns they tempt, by turns they shun the foe, 245
And seem to dare, but still avoid the blow ;
Till he, who foremost from the fable lord
Advanc'd, unsheaths oblique his secret sword,
And hurls a vulgar warrior to the dead,
And fills the vacant seat his arms had made : 250
Ah ! blind to fate, nor sees the vengeful foe
Close by his side with meditated blow ;
Gash'd with a deadly wound he rolls along,
And quits the field to join the Stygian throng.
At this the Monarch of the fable crew, 255
Cautious from out the royal tent withdrew
Far to the camps extreme, and stood secur'd,
By fronting files, and flanking tow'rs immur'd.

And

Nec mora, surgit eques bellator lævus utrinque,
Et mediis hinc inde insultant cœtibus ambo,
Alternique ruunt, et spargunt fata per hostes.
Sternuntur pedites passim, miseranda juvenus,
Quòd nequeant revocare gradum : sonat ungula campo
In medio, et totis miscentur funera castris. 226
Dum vero peditum intentus Latonius heros
Cædibus instat atrox, equitemque per agmina versat
Vastatorem alæ piceæ ; longè Arcada major
Ardor agit tacitis jamdudum invadere furtis 230
Magnum aliquid ; peditumque ultro sæpe obvia transit
Agmina, cornipedem ducens in prælia lævum,
Qui regi insidias tendens huc vertitur, atque huc,
Per mediosque hostes impunè infrenis oberrat.
Constitit, optataque diu statione potitus 235
Letum intentabat pariter regique, elephantique,

And now, detach'd from each sinister wing,
 The bounding courfers to the combat spring; 260
 Smote by their solid hoofs, the pavement sounds,
 And trampled soldiers groan with livid wounds,
 Unhappy youths ! that forward rush on fate,
 Forc'd to advance, but fetter'd from retreat.
 But while Apollo chears his steed along, 265
 And scatters terror through the vulgar throng ;
 Th' Arcadian youth a bold exploit design'd,
 And the deep project labour'd in his mind :
 Slow to the left advanc'd, his sable knight
 Winds o'er the ranks, and circles through the fight, 270
 Bent on the King, he shifts from row to row,
 And scorns each conquest of a vulgar foe :
 At length, unhurt, he gains th' important ground,
 Which wide expos'd the Monarch to his wound ;
 And where the elephant, whose threatful tow'rs 275
 Rose on the right, and teem'd with missive Show'rs ;

F

Though

Alæ qui dextro cornu turritus in auras

Attollens caput, ingenti se mole tenebat.

Delius ingemuit, clauso succurrere regi

Admonitus ; namque indefensum in morte elephantem

Linquere se videt, atque ambos non posse periclo 241

Eripere, et fatis urgeri cernit iniquis.

Cura prior sed enim est trepidum defendere regem,

Quem rapit in dextrum latus : at niger emicat ense

Stricto eques, et magnis elephantem intercipit ausis, 245

Damnum ingens ; neque enim est, sævæ post virginis arma,

Bellantum numero ex omni magis utilis alter.

Non tamen impunè evades, ait acer Apollo ;

Et peditum cuneis densaque indagine cingit.

Ille igitur trepidare metu, certique pericli

250

Frustra

Though built of giant limb, and matchless strength,
Now trembling stood within his lances length.
Apollo look'd, and saw his king distress'd,
And in the reach of death his warrior beast : 280
Inward he groan'd, reduc'd to direful streight,
To succour both surpass'd the pow'r of fate :
The monarch therefore feels his aiding arm
Born to the right, beyond the reach of harm :
While the keen faulcion of the fable knight 285
Meets the huge brute, and lops him from the fight ;
Great was the loss ; for great his pow'rs excell'd,
Next to the Queen, and bulwark of the field.
Yet shalt thou not escape, Apollo cries ;
Fierce rage vindictive darting from his eyes ; 290
Then straight began to close his thick'ning files,
And hem the steed within the moving toils,
Shudd'ring he stands, convuls'd with sudden fright,
Expos'd to numbers, and depriv'd of flight :

Frustra velle fugam : nam, hinc fata minatur Amazon,

Inde obstat conferta phalanx : tandem altiùs actò

Virginis ense cadit, pulchræ solatia mortis.

Æstuat alba cohors laterè heu ! minùs utilis uno,

Et magis atque magis furit acri accensa dolore. 255

Sicut ubi dextrum taurus certamine cornu

Amisit, dum se adverso fert pectore in hostem,

Sævior in pugnam ruit, armos sanguine, et altè

Colla animosa lavans : gemitu omnis sylva remugit.

Talis erat facies, cæsi post fata elephantis, 260

Candentis turmæ ; hinc furiis majoribus ardet

Phœbus, et ultrices hortatur in arma cohortes,

In ferrum et cædes pronus, cupidusque nocendi ;

Incautusque

Here, dense with spears, a threatful phalanx stood, 295

And there the Queen of Amazonian blood,

The Queen, at length, inflicts the fatal blow,

A death made glorious by so great a foe.

Now vex'd, and vengeful, rag'd the squadron white,

With wounded wing, unballanc'd in the fight. 300

As when a jealous bull, with furious haste,

Impetuous rushing on his rival's breast,

Feels hanging on his brow the bloody horn

Wrench'd by the shock, and from it's socket torn,

Fiercer he burns, and frantic to engage, 305

Supports th' unequal war with doubled rage,

Thick down his shoulders falls the clotted gore,

And his hoarse groanings make the forest roar.

So rag'd the snowy troops, and such the fight,

When death had wrapt their elephant in night : 310

Incens'd Apollo scorns each cautious art,

Revenge alone impetuous swells his heart,

Careless

Incautusque ambas perdit sine lege phalangas :

Dumque hostes pariter cernat procumbere victos, 265

Ipse suos morti indefensos objicit ultro.

Mercurius, melior furto, cunctatur, et hærens

Usque alium ex alio spectando prævidet ictum.

Sæpe ille, ex longo meditatus fata superbæ

Reginæ, peditem perdendum comminus offert, 270

Diffimulatque dolos ; mox pœnitet, et trahit alto

Improbis, errorem fingens, suspiria corde.

Jamque sagittiferi è dextro spicula cornu

Virginis in latus albentis tendebat : id hostis

Haud primùm sensit, peditemque trahebat in atram 275

Læva aciem, rerum ignarus : verum improba cladem

Et tantas Erycina Venus miserata ruinas,

Incauto juveni furtim tacito innuit ore,

Atque

Careless of schemes, to blood and slaughter prone,
He blends his foes destruction with his own,
And, void of fear, and guardless in the strife, 315
Gives wound for wound, and squanders life for life.
But Hermes, vers'd in fraud, with caution slow,
Foresees, prevents, and ponders ev'ry blow ;
Oft, while his plots advance, with distant aim,
And urge sly mischief tow'rd the royal dame, 320
He offers to the sword some vulgar breast,
Then feigns deception, and appears distress'd ;
Shrouds his deep treason in a labour'd sigh,
And mourns the warrior whom he wish'd to die.
At length, his subtle archer on the right 325
Had bent his bow, and strung his shaft for flight
Full on the Queen, nor Phœbus saw the blow,
But careless on the left annoy'd the foe ;
Just then a footman of the vulgar train
His heedless hand was cheering o'er the plain, 330
Nor

Atque oculis ; Phœbo nam forte adversa sedebat :

Nulla mora, ad natus Divæ tremefactus Apollo 280

Constitit, atque oculis late agmina circumspexit ;

Et subitò insidias sensit, peditemque retraxit,

Quem contra impulerat dextra impiger ; atque periclo

Reginam eripuit. tum Maia Atlantide cretus

Littoreum caveæ confessum vocibus implet, 285

Reginam captam ingeminans : fremit undique turba

Cœlicolûm studiis variis, seseque tuetur

Phœbus, et his alto fatur de littore verbis.

Quæ porrò invidia est dextram ludicra petenti

Præmia corrigere incautam, in meliusque referre, 290

Cum nec pacta vetent ? Quòd si, Maia fate, posthac

Id sedet omnino prohiberi ; lege caveto :

Quique prior fuerit digitis impulsus in hostem,

Sive

Nor yet dismiss'd : when Venus, where she sat
Oppos'd, and mourn'd his Queen's impending fate,
Prompt to prevent the slaughter of the fair,
With nod expressive, spoke the danger near.
Quick, by the Goddess warn'd, Apollo starts, 335
And wide surveys the war in all it's parts ;
Spies the deep ambush, and with active aid
Retracts his man, and saves the trembling maid :
But Maïa's son makes ecchoing shores exclaim,
Loud raging, and demands the captive dame : 340
The murm'ring Gods in factious parties join,
While Phœbus thus accosts the pow'rs divine.

In sportful combat, where's the mighty fault
To check th' incautious hand with better thought ?
No law forbids, nor am I yet afraid, 345
If Hermes wills it, let the law be made,
Whatever warrior feels th' impulsive hand,
That warrior mov'd shall change his former Stand,

Sive albus, piceusque fuat, discrimine nullo

Ille eat, et dubii subeat discrimina Martis.

295

Dixit, et hæc toto placuit sententia circo

Cœlicolis : Venerem obtutu clam versus acerbo

Juppiter increpuit ; nec sensit filius Arcas :

Sed puer ingemuit labefactus corda dolore

Ingenti ; vix se tenuit, quin ludicra castra,

300

Injēctisque acies manibus confunderet ambas.

Tum secum statuit furtis certare, dolisque

Omnibus, ac totis fraudes innēctere castris.

2) Jam tum igitur juvenem pharetratum in prælia ducens,

1) Cornipedis simulare gradus jubet : ocius ille

305

Emicat, atque albæ reginæ fata minatur.

Non Phœbum latuere doli : subrifit, et ore

Versus

Shall try the chance of war, without recall ;
 He spoke ; his sentence pleas'd the crouded hall : 350
 While Jove's stern aspect met the Cryprian Queen,
 And chid with frowns, by Maïa's boy unseen.
 Marr'd in his plot, and frustrate of his spoils,
 The baffled youth regrets his fruitless toils ;
 Rage shakes his reason, and he scarce refrains 355
 From mingling all the legions o'er the plains.
 But, stern revenge close-working in his heart,
 He now resolves on each deceitful art,
 And summons ev'ry fraud, and ev'ry wile,
 And close besets the camp with various guile. 360
 Thus fix'd, he leads his archer to the fight,
 Train'd to the wheeling movement of a knight :
 Circling he bounds, and draws his arrow keen,
 And points the treach'rous weapon at the Queen.
 Nor 'scap'd the fraud Apollo's watchful look, 365
 He smil'd, and, turning to th' assembly spoke.

Verfus ad aſtantes, quamvis accõmoda furtis
Mercurio fit dextra, inquit; fraudique, dolifque,
Callide Atlantiada, invigiles; haud me tamen ultra 310
Fallere erit: jamque, improbe, iniquam corrige dextram.
Speſtantum cunei ingenti riſere theatro,
Atque Arcas, veluti deceptus imagine falſa,
Summiſit buxum conceſſo in prælia greſſu
Arcum intendentem: vigilat jam cautus Apollo, 315
Fraudeſque, infidiaſque timens, occultaque furta.
Ille etenim perſæpe, manu dum ducit in hoſtes
Alternam buxum, juſ contra et fœdera pacta,
Implicitans celeres digitos duo corpora bello
Objiciat ſimul, obſervet niſi providus hoſtis. 320

Jamque

Although our rival boasts the thieving trade,
And all his tricks with dextrous skill are play'd,
Yet we have felt his secret arts before,
And, once detected, he deceives no more : 370
Then, crafty friend, relax thy treach'rous bow,
And teach thine archer, how he ought to go :
While thus Apollo mock'd th' Arcadian frauds,
Loud laughter shook th' assembly of the Gods :
The subtle youth detected, feigns surprise, 375
Affects mistake, and blames his heedless eyes ;
His archer, from th' illegal post he draws,
And bids him move, obedient to the laws :
But Phœbus watchful, by his dangers made,
Suspects each spot of fraud, and ambuscade : 380
Nor guards in vain, for else his rival's hands
Entangled flily with the crouded bands,
Wou'd urge the men by pairs, with dext'rous sleight,
Unaw'd by justice, or the rules of fight.

And

Jamque equitem contra nigrantem candidus arcum

Intendens sese opposuit pharetratus, et arcet

Reginæ jugulo intentum : tum dexter oberrat

Huc atque huc elephas, niveisque exultat in armis.

Hæserat in medio, dominæ, regique minatus 325

Albus eques, ratus impunè, et jam forte superbus

Nequicquam spoliorum animum pascebat amore.

Non tulit hanc speciem juvenis pharetratus, et arcu

Contendit calamum, seseque immittit in hostem,

Fata licèt pedes intentet, moriturus in armis 330

Insigni pro laude : alvo mediæ hæsit arundo

Stridula, et ima chalybs descendit in ilia adaçtus.

Volvitur

And now a knight, from out the fable crew, 385

Fierce threat'ning, keeps the lucid Queen in view,

Till stopt, reluctant, by a threatful bow,

He wheels his steed, and shuns the feather'd blow :

Whilst the right elephant exulting moves,

Protecting from his tow'rs the snowy droves. 390

High on his courser, now, a champion fair,

Secure in thought, attack'd the royal pair ;

Fix'd by them both he stood, and long'd to toil

In deeds of death, and fed his mind with spoil.

This sight an archer of the fable crew 395

Indignant view'd, and strung his pliant yew ;

Ev'n though he saw the hostile sword unsheath,

Impatient in the springs of life to bathe ;

Yet glory calls, and terrors lose their weight,

He'll die in arms, and share a warrior's fate : 400

Thus undismay'd, he steps from out the throng,

And fits the shaft, and strains the struggling thong ;

Quick

Volvitur ille excussus humique, et calcibus auras

Verberat ; in ventos vita indignata recessit.

Inde sagittiferum sternit pedes : hunc pedes alter 335

Hostili de plebe necat : pugna aspera surgit.

Turribus occurrunt ingenti mole elephanti :

Sæva pharetrigeri contendunt spicula nervis ;

Quadupedumque gemit bicolor sub verbere campus.

Incaluere animi parte ex utrâque, et in armis 340

Concurrunt densi : simul omnis copia gentis

Albæque piceæque, duces, ambæque phalanges,

Confusæque acies magno certamine totis

Densantur campis ; virtus, fortunaque in unum

Conveniunt :

Quick from the founding bow the plummy spear
Shrill hissing issu'd through the liquid air ;
Fix'd in the groin the feather met the skin, 405
The bearded iron tore the parts within :
Prone falls the knight ; his legs inverted rise
Quiv'ring in air, and pointed to the skies ;
Pitch'd on the plain, he leaves his life behind,
A breath unbody'd mixing with the wind ; 410
The soldier then, who long had aim'd the blow,
Sent the keen archer to the realms of woe ;
While one of equal rank, with vengeful blade,
Dislodg'd his soul, to join the bowman's shade :
Fierce grows the fight : the elephants from far 415
With clashing turrets meet, and hideous jar ;
The quiver'd youth the twanging sinew strain,
And hoofs thick rattling thunder o'er the plain ;
Men, leaders, courfers, mix'd, dispute the day,
And every pow'r of war augments the fray ; 420

H

While

Conveniunt : hi nunc victores agmina versa

345

Æquore agunt toto ; versis referuntur habenis

Nunc iidem, variantque vices, et fluctuat omnis

Area bellorum : vasti velut æquoris undæ,

Siquando inter se, recluso carcere, sæva

Bella cient animosi Euri, vertantque profundum,

350

Ionio in magno, aut undifono Atlanteo,

Alternos volvunt procurva ad littora fluctus.

At medias acies inter crudescit Amazon

Candida, plena animis, multisque in millibus ardet.

Namque sagittiferum incurfans, rediensque elephantem,

Nigrantes sternit ; dextra, lævaque per alas

356

Fulminat, atque manu spargens hastilia sævit.

Bellanti dant tela locum, retroque residunt

Hinc, atque hinc inimicæ acies : per tela, per hostes

Illa

While chance and valour, skill and force unite,
And strain for conquest with collected might ;
Now these pursue, the rival squadrons yield,
Now swift pursu'd, those float along the field.
So, when with warring rage the winds unbound, 425
From coasts opponent heave the deep profound,
As each prevails, th' unstable ocean roars,
And waves alternate lash the distant shores,
Plung'd in the thickest of the hostile crowd,
The fair-fac'd Amazon, all bath'd in blood, 430
With fiery mien conspicuous from afar,
Shines forth distinguish'd in the blaze of war.
And now an archer through the files of fight
Swift she pursues, and death o'ertakes his flight ;
Then turning short, she meets the tow'ring beast, 435
And hides her faulcion in his brawny chest.
From side to side, her quivering jav'lins spring,
And wound the battle in each distant wing ;

Ille ruit pulchram in mortem ; simul ultima tentat 360

Castra, fugæ fidens, animosque in bella viriles

Sæva gerit ; penetrat cuneos, aperitque viam vi.

Tandem fusca cohors, nigrantisque arbiter alæ

Ipse etiam arma suæ trepidus, viresque, animosque

Virginis implorat : nulla est mora, fervida Amazon 365

Emicat, atque ardens paribus se sistit in armis.

Quem primum hasta, aut quem postremum, bellica virgo

Demetis ; aut quot humi candentia corpora linquis ?

Semianimes volvuntur equi niveique nigrique,

Et peditum cunei, dilecta que pectora Marti 370

Aligerâ juvenes incuntes bella sagittâ.

Quis cladem fando illius, quis funera pugnæ,

Prostratosque duces speret se æquare canendo ?

Sternitur omne solum buxo, atque miserrima cædes

Exoritur : confusa inter sese agmina cædunt, 375

Implicitæque

The strength of heroes withers at her threats,
And where she rages all the war retreats : 440
Far to the camp through foes, and darts she speeds,
And courts illustrious death by glorious deeds ;
With spirits fraught, and might of manly source
Tears thro' the ranks, and bears down force with force.
At length, the swarthy legions, and their lord, 445
Harrafs'd with toil, their Queen's relief implor'd ;
Swift sprung the dame of Amazonian race,
Oppos'd in equal arms, with gloomy face :
Fierce maid of war, what numbers then lay slain
Mow'd by thy sword, and bleaching on the plain ? 450
Ranks white, and sable, roll with wounded steeds,
And youths that vex the war with feather'd reeds.
What thought can equal, or what tongue display
The rout, the wounds, the tumult of the fray ?
Men pent in heaps, by flound'ring coursers' bruis'd, 455
Files discompos'd, and battle all confus'd ;

Undisciplin'd

Implicitæque ruunt albæ, nigræque phalanges :

Sternuntur pedites, & corpora quadrupedantum.

Nam versæ inter se jactantes mutua tela

Fœmineis ambæ nituntur Amazones armis,

Usque aded certæ non cedere, donec in auras 380

Aut hæc, aut illa effundat cum sanguine multo

Sævam animam, solâ liquentes prælia morte.

Interea amborum populorum rector uterque

Captivos hostes, et victa cadavera bello

Carcere servabant castris vicina, caventes 385

Ne capti semel, aut obita jam morte jacentes,

In vitam revocati, iterum certamina inirent.

At lateri innixus Phœbeo Threicius Mars,

Junctus amicitia puero Arcadi, si quid amico

Fata sinant prodesse, animum per cuncta volutat, 390

Observatque

Undisciplin'd retreat, and rash advance,
Entangling hosts, and slaughter dealt by chance :
For fierce the Amazonian dames engag'd,
And showr'd their jav'lins thick, and mutual rag'd ;
Fix'd to the stubborn conflict on the field, 461
And each proud heart determin'd not to yield,
Till one in purple streams has pour'd her life
O'er the ting'd plain, and death dissolv'd the strife.

Mean time the lord of each contending train 465
In prison safe secur'd the captive slain,
Fast by their camps, afraid, lest haply sped
To night's dark shades, and number'd with the dead,
Their arms again shou'd aid the lengthen'd strife,
Stol'n from the grave, and re-inspir'd with life. 470

But Mars, close leaning on Apollo's side,
Yet strict in friendship to th' Arcadian ty'd,
Watching with busy thought, if chance might lend
Some lucky juncture to assist his friend,

Now

Observatque omnes casus : tum corpora bina
Capta, pharetratum juvenem, peditemque nigrantes,
Cœtibus è functis jam vita, atque æthere cassis
Surripit, et castris rursus clam immittit apertis.
Ergo iterum gemini captivi prælia inibant ; 395
Miscebantque manus animosi, atque arma ferebant.
Haud secus (ut perhibent) cùm Colchis nacta cadaver,
Aut virgo Massylla recens ; cantuque triformem
Sæpe ciens Hecaten, ac magni numina Ditis,
Falsam animam insinuat membris, aurasque loquaces ;
Continuò erigitur corpus, loquiturque, videtque, 401
Et vivos inter fruitur cœlestibus auris.
Non tulit indignum facinus Junonia proles
Mulciber, (ille dolum solus deprendit) et ore
Inclamat, Phœbumque monet : Thrax palluit heros 405
Deprensus : Phœbo exarsit dolor ossibus ingens.

Tum

Now silent drew from out the prison's hold 475
Two fable bodies, lifeless all and cold ;
An archer one, and one of vulgar name,
And softly rang'd them in the lists of fame :
Thus then the captives rescu'd into light
Again advance, and threat, and urge the fight. 480
As when Medea, by the midnight gloom,
Draws forth a shrouded carcass from the tomb ;
And, mutt'ring o'er and o'er the magic spell,
Cites the dread pow'rs of Hecate and Hell,
A foreign soul the bloodless body warms, 485
And mimic voice obeys th' inspiring charms,
The pallid corse immediate starts from death,
And speaks, and sees, and shares cœlestial breath.
The shameful deed sage Mulciber alone
Perceiv'd, and warn'd aloud Latona's son ; 490
Deep stung with sorrow, Phœbus view'd the fraud,
While pale, detected, sat the Thracian God.

Tum Marti Pater omnipotens iratus, iniqua
Præsidia abduci, atque indebita corpora bello
Protinus è castris jubet, atque retexere falsos
Hinc atque inde ictus, et cuncta in pristina reddit. 410

Jamque duces furiis ambo majoribus instant,
Reginasque ambas conversa per agmina mittunt :
Cæde madent illæ toto æquore fata ferentes :
Confidunt tandem obversæ, regesque tuentur
Quæque suum : ecce, autem bellatrix agminis albi
A tergo ferro invasit, stravitque nigrantem 416
Ignaram : verùm ipsa etiam cadit icta sagittâ,
Ah misera ! et spoliis haud longùm exultat opimis.
Convertere oculos ambæ hinc, atque inde cohortes ;

Atque

But Jove incens'd at Mars, severe commands
Th' unlawful succours, from the living bands
Withdrawn, to reassume their captive state, 495
Disqualify'd for war, and claim'd by fate ;
Then bids each side th' unravel'd strokes restore,
And range their warriors as they stood before.
And now the chiefs returning, fierce engage,
And mix the battle with reviving rage ; 500
The Queens advancing, show'r their spears around,
And slaughter'd bodies strow the hostile ground ;
Each halts at length protective of her lord,
And for a moment rests the toiling sword :
When lo ! the fair-fac'd Amazon unseen 505
Gores through her back th' unwary sable Queen
With mortal wound ; but falls amidst her boast,
Pierc'd by an arrow from the rival host.
To this sad scene each army turns it's care,
And solemn shews of grief suspend the war ; 510

Atque acies lachrymis et fœmineo ululatu

420

Ambas incubuisse putes, dum funera ducunt.

Tum reges mœstos ipsa ad prætoria densi

Agglomerant sese circum ; timor omnibus idem

Incumbit, par tempestas, par hausit utrosque

Diluvium populos ; et sunt sua vulnera cuique.

425

Haud prorsus tamen ambobus defecerat omne

Robur : opes restant, et adhuc intacta juvenus,

Tres pedites tibi, Phœbe, sagittifer alter, et ingens

Bellua turrito dorso ; totidemque tibi, Arcas,

Excepto elephante, alta qui nuper in aula,

430

Pace fruens, cecidit, positus inglorius armis,

Eminus aligerâ percussus arundine pectus.

Sed

Tears seem to fall from ev'ry warriours eyes,
And fun'ral trains proceed with mournful cries.
Each monarch now withdraws his trembling host,
Thick circling round him, to the farthest coast;
Dismay on ev'ry face, and dire affright 515
Each visage harrow'd by the storms of fight;
Alike the flood of war had swept their pow'rs,
And wounds had fall'n on each in equal show'rs.
Yet still some few, some dauntless hearts remain'd,
Nor were the springs of vigour wholly drain'd: 520
One archer, and one turret-bearing beast,
With three stout foot the Delian squadron grac'd;
The same appear'd upon th' Arcadians side,
An equal troop, with equal arms supply'd,
Except his elephant, who whilst afar 525
He skulk'd inglorious from the toils of war,
Pierc'd by a well-fledg'd arrow in the breast,
Sunk with his useless arms in endless rest:

But

Sed dexter tibi restat eques imperditus : haufit
Cetera bellantum Mars impius agmina, bellique
Alea, florentes et desolaverat aulas.

435

At Cyllenæo juveni spes occidit omnis.
Æstuat, amissæ gentis memor, et suspirat
Heroas magnos tot fato corpora functa.
Non tamen excedit pugna : fracta agmina bello,
Reliquias tenues immitis Apollinis, astu
Cautior in pugnam mittit, post funera tanta
Si qua fata finant gentis sarcire ruinas.
It nigrum campis agmen, stat ubique morari,
Fortunamque omnem tentare, aditusque nocendi.
Exultat contrà non æquo prælia motu

440

445

Cynthius

But in his place, a knight of gallant shew
Still made his numbers equal to the foe. 530

The rest are nam'd no more, consign'd to night,
And deep o'erwhelm'd beneath the gulphs of fight ;
While, by the waste of war, the croud'd halls
Depopulate extend their naked walls.

O'er his thin host sad Hermes casts his eye, 535

Desponding deep, and draws a lab'ring sigh ;
Laments his heroes, rank'd in war no more,
But shades pale wand'ring on the Stygian shore.
Yet quits he not the field, his shatter'd bands,
Sad reliques of Apollo's slaughter'd hands ; 540

Cautious he guides along the dang'rous plain,
If haply, though his choicest pow'rs lay slain,
Some lucky moment might emerge from fate
To spring fresh hopes, and save a sinking state.

Thus march'd the fable troop, with wise delay, 545
Slow moving, watchful of the doubtful day ;

Revolv'd

Cynthius invadens : facies indigna cohortum,

Heu ! facies miseranda ducum ; raro agmine aperta

Castra patent latè, viduatæ et civibus aulæ.

Mœrebant vacuis thalamis regnator uterque

Jamdudum exosi sine conjuge tædia lecti.

450

Primus amor maneat quamvis immotus utrisque,

Sors tamen ad nova conjugia, atque novos hymenæos

Flectit iniqua. igitur primùm rex agminis albi

Reginæ comites olim, fidasque ministras

Regali invitat thalamo ; quæ, funera mœstæ

455

Post fera bellatricis heræ, tela irrita bello

Jactabant, acies inter cuneosque nigrantes,

Oppetere, amissæ dominæ pro cæde, paratæ.

Sed

Revolv'd each chance, and pry'd in ev'ry path
Pervious to mischief, or expos'd to death.
Oppos'd the Cynthian stands, and braves the fight
With equal numbers, but superiour might : 550
Alas ! what troops, what chiefs, the face of war,
How chang'd, how wretched ! naked camps afar ;
And men thin scatter'd o'er forsaken plains,
And regal seats reduc'd to wilder'd scenes.
Each widow'd King a life of sorrow led, 555
And loath'd the silence of the lonely bed ;
True to their former loves they both remain'd,
But fate severe to second vows constrain'd :
And first the snowy Prince to Hymen's rites
The lov'd companions of his Queen invites, 560
These still, with loyal hearts, her name rever'd,
And prompt with fruitless arms, the battle dar'd ;
Lavish of life, defy'd the threatful blade,
And toil'd to die revengeful of her shade.

Sed priùs explorare ausus sedet, atque viriles

Cunctorum spectare animos, ut digna cubili 460

Intret : in hostiles fedes, atque ultima castra

Hortaturque, jubetque supremam apprehendere metam.

Nulli fas etenim regis sperare cubile,

(Pacta vetant) nisi quæ per tela inuenta, per hostes,

Transactis spatiis cunctis impunè suprema 465

Attigerit priùs adversi penetralia regis.

Arrexere animos famulæ, pariterque per hostes

Limitibus properant rectis : tamen ocior anteit

Tertia quam dextro ducebat femita cornu,

Exultatque, agitatque animo connubia regis : 470

Nam comites spe sublapsâ cessere volentes.

Illa

But still some bold exploit must first be shown 565
To prove the worthy consort of the throne,
What spirits lift the maid, what active fires,
Who nobly to a monarch's bed aspires.
She then, who first with dauntless courage gains
The farthest limits of the hostile plains, 570
And safe, through darts, and stern opposing bands,
Treads where the rival Kings encampment stands,
Thus prov'd superiour to her rival dames,
Is chos'n to light her prince's second flames.
Swift start th' impatient maids direct along 575
Through spears protended, and a hostile throng;
But one, before the rest directs her flight
O'er the third pass that stretches to the right;
Exulting thought anticipates her state,
Already in her mind a monarch's mate; 580
Her hopeless rivals own superiour force,
And willing stop, and quit th' unequal course:

Illa volat cœptis immanibus ; addidit alas

Gloria præpetibus plantis, et plurima merces.

Nulla obstat mora, nec facinus prohibere tyranno

Cura nigro est ; novaque ipse etiam connubia tentat,

Et vacuis thalamis alias inducere nuptas. 476

Ergo iter alternæ accelerant ; famulamque sinistram

Quarto limite agit, saltu sed tardior uno,

Parrhasius juvenis : jamque imperterrita virgo

Candida, facta potens voti, penetraverat omnes 480

Sedes, atque alacris metâ confederat altâ.

Tum rector jubet afferri sellamque, tiaramque,

Extinctæ ornatus, necnon fulgentia sceptrâ,

Dignaturque toro meritam, optatisque hymenæis.

Gaudet cana cohors, insultatque eminus atræ. 485

Haud

Fame wings her speed, hope ev'ry nerve employs,
And her big heart dilates with princely joys ;
Nor strove the fable tyrant to prevent 585
The nuptial tye, for he himself intent
On Hymen's rites, with equal ardor, led
A second consort to the royal bed ;
Prompt to his love advanc'd his future bride
Through the fourth pass, on the sinister side ; 590
Far tow'rd the goal her ample strides were seen,
Yet one step slower than the snowy Queen,
Who, now successful in her great design,
Had pass'd secure, and gain'd the utmost line,
And proud receiving at the royal hand 595
The robes, the crown, the scepter of command,
In all the pomp of pow'r majestic shone,
Bless'd in her love, and seated on the throne,
While each glad subject glow'd with loyal flame,
And brav'd the foe, and hail'd the royal dame. 600
But

Haud lacrymas cohibet Maia satus, æthera voce

Incessens, pictosque à pectore rupit amictus.

Nigranti famulæ tantum gradus unus ad ipsam

Restabat metam ah miseræ ! sed limite recto

Turritus fera fata elephas impunè minatur

490

Insurgens, si supremam contingere sedem

Audeat, et toto castra obsidet ultima tractu,

Et pavidam observans extremis sedibus arcet.

Interea nova regali dignata virago

Connubio exultans, toto dat funera campo.

495

Illam tollit honos novus, et fortuna tumentem ;

Fulminis in morem ruit, atque nigrantia sævit

Castra per, et sedes, ac sidera territat armis.

Horrescunt faciem invisam nigra agmina crudæ

Virginis, atque imæ exoptant telluris hiatus.

500

Diffugiunt

But Maïa's son his broider'd garment tears,
And his moist eye the mark of sorrow wears ;
His fable maid swift-speeding o'er the plains,
While but one step to future joy remains,
Unhappy virgin ! sees the trunky beast 605
Foe to her blifs, of all the path possess'd :
Dreadful he stands, his nodding turret shakes,
And threatens death, the next advance she makes.

Mean time, the white virago lately led,
With new-felt honours to the royal bed, 610
To swell'd ambition gives the slacken'd reins,
Like lightning rushing through the hostile plains ;
Fills all the fable camp with dire alarms,
And heav'ns high concave ecchoes to her arms :
Her form terrific o'er the sanguine field 615
Makes leaders tremble, and whole squadrons yield :
Far to the field's extreme dimensions, where
The regal standard waves aloft in air ;

In

Diffugiunt trepidi vasto irrumpente fragore

Hoste, metuque omnes aëti glomerantur in unum,

Aulaï in medio juxta latera ardua regis.

Haud secus alta boves sparsæ per pascua quondam,

Ut sensere lupum venientem, protinus omnes 505

Conveniunt trepidæ, et fortem factò agmine taurum

Ductorem armenti implorant, ipsique propinquant

Certatim inter se trudentes cornua, rauco

Murmure ; mugitu longè nemora alta resultant.

At regina furens trepidos toto agmine victrix 510

Impingens in terga, ipsique ante omnia regi

Fata parans, pugnas alta ad prætoria miscet :

Nunc ruit huc, nunc huc ; tunc et, nisi læva fuisset

Mens illi, poterat candentem invadere sedem

Limite in obliquum quarto, et concludere fauces. 515

Ultimus

In heaps they roll confus'd, a routed band,
 And sue protection at the royal hand. 620
 As when in some rich vale the lowing breed
 Crop the soft verdure, and enjoy the mead ;
 If from afar the prowling wolf appears,
 Driv'n from their sweet repast, with instant fears
 About the lordly bull they croud, they hide, 625
 Implore his aid, and squeeking side by side,
 Their horns mix rattling, and their hollow sound
 Makes ev'ry eccho of the hills rebound.
 The Queen thus raging, fills the camp with fear,
 Drives the black croud, and thunders in their rear ; 630
 But chief she seeks the fable Monarch's fall,
 And spreads the battle round the palace wall :
 And now, if rashness had not seal'd her eyes,
 Where the fourth pass oblique allow'd surprise,
 One skilful movement had his person seiz'd, 635
 His nation conquer'd, and his palace raz'd,

L

And

Ultimus ille labor regi, gentique fuisset
Nigranti, et fatis Arcas lugeret iniquis :
Nempe erat hinc leti facilis via in ilia regis ;
Nec poterat quisquam se tantæ opponere cladi.
Scnsit Atlantiades tacitus, dubioque tremebant 520
Corda metu : accelerare hostem jubet improbus, ictum
Ne videat, verbisque rapit per inania mentem,
Castigatque moras, Adeon' juvat usque morari,
Nec pudor est ? quæ tanta animis ignavia ? sic nos
Increpitas semper cunctantes impiger ipse ? 525
Scilicet expectas dum nox certamina tollat ?
His actus, peditem imprudens dum captat Apollo,
Præteriit fortunam : alacer vocem extulit astris

And Maia's son had wept the last disgrace,
The last misfortune of the fable race ;
For all defenceless to the slop'ing blow 640
His monarch stood, and nought oppos'd the foe.
Th' Arcadian youth perceiv'd the direful strait,
His Prince unguarded, and impending fate :
Quick beat his heart, alarm'd with flutt'ring fear,
While artful mov'd his speech, and void of care, 645
Urging the foe, and striving to provoke
His hurry'd reason to neglect the stroke :
And is it thus, he cries, that we must stand
Inactive, and attend thy ling'ring hand ?
In us the smallest pauses meet with blame, 650
While thy slow pond'rings are devoid of shame :
Yet, wise perhaps, your fears expect till night,
Withdraw the champions, and dismiss the fight.
Chaf'd with his words, the God advanc'd in haste,
And pass'd the King, and pierc'd a vulgar breast. 655

Lætitiâ exiliens Cyllenius : inde periclo

Regem ipsum eripiens, opponit Amazonis armis 530

Haud invitum equitem, qui sævos arceat ietus.

Tum secum meditans cándenti letum elephantî,

Qui metâ arcebat famulam ne regis iniret

Concessos thalamos, curvato perculit arcu :

Concidit, atque ietu tellurem bellua vasto 535

Pulsavit moriens ; dum regi intentat Apollo

Nequicquam exitium : tum metam impunè ministra

Nigra tenet, (nec Phœbus obest) jam regia conjux.

Jamque alacres paribus certamina viribus ambo

Rursum ineunt, nuptasque ferunt in bella secundas. 540

Tum, quanquam ambiguae spes sint, incertaque belli

Alea adhuc, tamen, ac si palmæ certus, et omne

Discrimen positus sit supra, gaudia ficto

Ore puer Maïæ simulat, verbisque superbit

Improbis,

Cyllenius bounds, with quick'ning joys elate,
And wrefts his Monarch from the hands of fate,
Then, fixing a courageous knight between,
Repels the fury of the martial Queen.
And now while Phœbus toils with fruitless pain, 660
And strives to take the rescu'd king in vain ;
The threatful elephant, whose wayward force
Stop'd the black maiden in her nuptial course,
From a fleet arrow feels the deadly wound,
And cumb'rous falling shakes the solid ground ; 665
Then swift the virgin, freed from all her dread,
Leaps to the goal, and gains the royal bed.

And now, with equal arms on either side,
Each Monarch brings to war his second bride ;
When, though as yet no certain hopes prevail, 670
And the pois'd battle hangs in even scale,
The son of Maïa, with dissembled boast,
Insults the guardian of the snowy host ;

Pursues

Improbis, insultans, astûs genus, et sua creber 545

Vocibus extollens, albæ premit arma cohortis.

Quem sic deprensa juvenis Latonius arte

Increpat : nondum extremam dubio ultima bello

Imposuit fortuna manum, et jam voce superbis.

Proinde mihi insulta, et tumidis reple omnia verbis, 550

Certa tuum annuerit tibi cùm victoria Martem.

Sed jam nulla mora est ; tua nunc, nunc irrita faxo

Dicta manu. hæc fatus, reginam hortatur in hostes.

Continuò exoritur magnum certamen, et ingens

Hinc atque hinc rabies ; dum fixum vincere utrisque.

Audentes in tela ruunt : stat multus ubique 556

Terror, ubique pavor, mortisque simillima imago.

Nituntur cuncti adversi, seseque viro vir

Obtulit : invigilant castris avertere pestem

Quisque

Pursues him with the craft of airy threats,
And vaunts himself superiour to the fates : 675
But Phœbus, long acquainted with his art,
Retorting thus, corrects his pride of heart.
At least, coy fortune has not yet reveal'd
Whose conqu'ring forces shall possess the field,
Some heroes unapall'd yet stand their ground, 680
Nor deem to fly before thy boastful sound ;
Then vaunt thy prowess, and insult at will,
When victory secure, has crown'd thy skill ;
But mark how thus our arms restrain thy tongue ;
He spoke, and urg'd his glitt'ring Queen along. 685
Now the rous'd battle roars with martial cry,
Each party fix'd to conquer, or to die ;
Dauntless they meet, they rush upon the wound,
And fear, and terror course the hostile ground ;
Man charges man, and shield opposes shield, 690
And death's dark shadow low'rs upon the field :

By

Quisque suis, hostemque fugant, hostiliaque ipsi 560
Castra petunt, variantque vices, fortunaque ludit
Spe cupidos, et corda moræ impatientia torquet.
Funera spargebat fuscæ regina cohortis
Per medias animosa acies : non æmula contrà
Opposuit sese virgo, sed calle per hostes 565
Secreto interea regis tendebat ad alta
Limina : dein subito captis custodibus arcis
Irruit, atque aditus irrumpens obsidet aulam,
Intentatque necem regi. tum nigra virago,
Postquam altis vidit canam in penetralibus hostem, 570
Cæde madens strages citò linquit, et imperfecta
Funera, et acta pedem retro exanimata repressit ;
Nec timuit mediam se certæ opponere morti,
Et patriæ, et trepido properans succurrere regi.

Hic

By turns they guard their camps remotest row,
By turns explore the quarters of the foe ;
Shift stations, vigorous charge, or shrink afar,
As changing fortune turns the wheel of war : 695
The fable princefs, raging far and wide,
Distributes plenteous death on ev'ry fide ;
Nor to oppose her march'd the rival Queen,
But, passing through the foe by ways unseen,
Works to the palace gates her fecret path, 700
Secures the guards, and threats the King with death.
The black virago, when fhe spy'd afar
The royal manfion made the fcene of war,
Stop'd her rais'd fword, nor made the blow compleat,
But left the foe beneath unfinifh'd fate ; 705
All bath'd in blood, with flaughter out of breath,
Fearlefs fhe rushes through the roads of death ;
Her nerves with more than mortal vigour fpring,
To fave her nation, and protect her King.

Hic aliud majus Phœbo, graviusque dolendum 575

Objicitur : nam cornipedem Cyllenius atrum

Huc illuc agitans campo insultabat aperto.

Ardet equus, saltuque furit ; nec destitit ausis,

Donec, reginæ pariter regique minatus,

Optatam tenuit sedem, exitioque futurus 580

Aut huic, aut illi, nigrantibus obstitit armis.

Ut vidit, tristi turbatus pectore Apollo

Ingemuit ; largusque genis non defuit humor.

Et jam jam labi, atque retro sublapsa referri

Spes omnis, fluxæ vires, averſa Deûm mens. 585

Arcas ſucceſſu exultans, ac munere Divûm

Lætus, ovanſque, animum vocemque ad ſidera tollit ;

Et tandem rediit vigor in præcordia victo.

Protinus

But now a deeper scene of grief appears, 710
And shakes Latona's son with boding fears,
A fable knight, by Maia's youth impell'd,
Wheels with indenting curvet o'er the field ;
The trampled infantry resist in vain,
He drives o'er heroes, and insults the plain ; 715
Then stops, and waves his sword with sudden gleam
O'er the pale Monarch, and his royal dame,
One doom'd, at least, to mingle with the dead,
Snatch'd from short pleasures, and the nuptial bed.
Apollo fees, and groans with inward woes, 720
While down each cheek the drop of sorrow flows ;
His hopes roll back, his fancy'd laurels die,
And fortune frowns, and heav'n averts it's eye.
Not so th' Arcadian, his exulting voice
Makes ev'ry eccho with his soul rejoice ; 725
Rais'd to the topmost spoke his fortunes roll,
And dawning conquest beams upon his soul ;

Protinus inclusam feriens sub tartara mittit

Reginam, et spoliis potitur non segnis opimis : 590

Tantum olli bellator equus cadit, ilia fossus

Ultoris ferro regis. nondum tamen expes

Phœbus abit, sed pugnat adhuc : atque agminis albi

Reliquiæ, pedites duo, et arcu insignis eburno

Martis amor juvenis, nequicquam bella laceffunt. 595

Audentes facit amissæ spes lapsa salutis,

Succurruntque duci labenti in funera : sed non

Talibus auxiliis, nec defensoribus istis

Tempus eget : toto Maia fatus æquore sævit.

Instat vi multâ nigra virgo, septaque regis 600

Circuit, excidium intentans, hac perfurit, atque hac :

Nec requievit enim, donec certamine iniquo

Reliquias

The helpless maid he hurls to Pluto's reign,
And tears the regal trappings from the slain,
While his pierc'd courser feels the monarch's blade, 730
Too mean a victim for a princely shade.

Nor yet the heart of Phœbus deigns to yield,
But still with shatter'd force maintains the field ;
Two common soldiers still resist the foe,
And one bold champion with the bended bow ; 735

These circling round their sinking monarch rear,
And stern exert the vigour of despair :

But war, now struggling in it's last decays,
Resumes no spirits from such helps as these ;

The son of Maia, raging far and wide, 740
Awes the deserted Field from side to side ;

His gloomy princefs, storming o'er the plain,
Hems in the monarch, and his feeble train,

Nor stops, relentless till th' unequal strife
Had swept his poor remains of aid from life, 745

Torn

Reliquias gentis candentis, et ultima bello

Auxilia absumpsit. medio rex æquore inermis

Constitit amissis fociis ; velut æthere in alto,

605

Expulit ardentes flammæ ubi lutea bigis

Luciferis Aurora, tuus pulcherrimus ignis

Lucet adhuc, Venus, et cœlo mox ultimus exit.

Nulla salus illi superat, spes nulla salutis :

Non tamen excedit victus, sed claudere sese

610

Hostiles inter cuneos, impunè per enses

Actus, avet, donec nusquam spatia ulla supersint

Effugiis. nam si nemo illi fata minetur,

Nec

Torn from their lord, and in oblivion lost,

A nameless nation, and a lifeless host.

Sole on the plain a hapless prince appears

Expos'd, unguarded to a host of spears ;

As when high-raised in heav'n's serene expanse, 750

Aurora's steeds the saffron morn advance,

And, distant beaming, with superior light

Put ev'ry lesser fire of heav'n to flight,

Thy lamp, fair Venus, sparkles yet on high,

And still disputes the empire of the sky ; 755

With fainting rays supports a feeble reign,

And last extinguish'd shuts the spangled scene :

Thus stands the monarch in distresses great,

Robb'd of defence, of hope, the wretch of fate ;

Yet stoops he not beneath th' impending blow, 760

But, active rushing through the crouded foe,

Attempts some sheltered station to secure,

Where hostile bands his further flight immure :

For

Nec superet sedes, quam impunè capessere possit ;

Nil tantorum operum impensis foret omnibus actum ;

Sed labor effusus frustra, viresque fuissent ; 616

Nec titulos quisquam, aut victoris nomen haberet.

Ergo per vacuas sedes, desertaque castra

Nunc huc, rursus illuc, incertos implicat orbes

Diffugiens : niger insequitur rex æquore toto, 620

Atque fugæ semper spatiumque abitumque relinquit.

Pòst, ubi supremo tendentem limite gressum

Vidit, reginam sedes servare secundas

Jussit, ab angustis ne se ille abducere posset

Ordinibus ;

For thus the stated rules of arms declare,
That when the Prince maintains unequal war ; 765
If then, surrounded with superior might,
He stands secure, but perishes by flight ;
His eager rival must suspend the blow,
Nor wreak mean vengeance on th' imprison'd foe ;
No laurels then are gain'd, no victor's boast, 770
But all the labours of the field are lost.
For this, through empty camps; and desert ways,
With tim'rous steps th' unstable Monarch strays,
This way, and that, with wand'ring error wheels,
While the black tyrant close pursues his heels, 775
Still leaving to his flight some pervious path
Deceitful, leading to the realms of death.
At length he sees his feeble foe compell'd
To take the farthest line that bounds the field,
When straight his warrior dame receives command 780
On the next pass to take her watchful stand,

N

There

Ordinibus ; tantumque fugæ misero ultima restat 625

Linea : tum sese contrà niger æmulus infert

Dux gentis propiore gradu ; sedes tamen una

Alterum ab alterius contactu summovet usque.

Ut verò contra exultantem victus, et expes

Constitit invitus, fortunam naçta virago 630

Extremam insiliit sedem, totoque minatur

Limite : nec misero restat locus ampliùs usquam.

Tandem illum surgens virgo crudelis in ensen

Immolat, et finem imposuit fors aspera pugnae ;

Ingenti Superùm plausu, et clamore secundo. 635

Victor Atlantiades exultat littore toto

Improbis,

There guard lest he escape, and close confine
His narrow wand'rings to the utmost line :
Then moves the monarch on with near advance,
And threats his rival with extended lance : 785
Yet still one station's length prevents the blow,
And wretched respite racks the trembling foe.
While thus confin'd before th' exulting lord,
He stood desponding, destin'd to the sword,
The black virago seiz'd the utmost seats, 790
And death hung threatful o'er his last retreats ;
Not long, for fierce the Amazonian maid,
By fortune favour'd, on her pointed blade
Impales the victim, and concludes the fray,
The Gods acclaiming to the well-fought day. 795

Th' Atlantian victor, loud exulting, roars,
And triumph ecchoing rolls along the shores :
With scornful smiles he mocks his conquer'd foe,
Insults his tears, and wantons in his woe :

Improbis, et victo insultat, ridetque dolentem :

Quem Pater omnipotens ad se vocat, et dat habere

Felicem virgam, quâ puras evocet umbras

Pallenti Styge, ut infectum scelus eluit ignis ; 640

Quaque Erebo damnet fontes, et carcere cæco ;

Detque adimatque oculis somnos ; et funere in ipso

Lumina lethæo claudat perfusa sopore.

Mox verò gratum ludum mortalibus ipse

Ostendit Deus, et morem certaminis hujus 645

Italiæ primùm docuit celebrare colonos.

Namq; olim, ut perhibent, dilectam Scacchida, quâ non

Inter Seriadas præstantior altera Nymphas,

Compressit

Him the great ruler of th' Olympian hill 800

Calls to his Throne, and thus rewards his skill.

“ Thine be the prize, to wave with awful hand

“ Twisted in magic wreaths a wond'rous wand,

“ With this to rescue from infernal ire

“ Pale shades refin'd from dross by penal fire, 805

“ The guilty soul in Stygian chains to tye,

“ Or banish sleep, or seal the watchful eye ;

“ In fates hard grasp, to calm the struggling breath,

“ And pour soft slumber on the hour of death.

Thus from the Gods the game derives it's birth, 810

The gift of Hermes to the sons of earth.

Hesperia's sons, first patrons of the sport,

From sage-recordèd story thus report :

That lovely Scacchis, once the fairest dame

Of all the Nymphs that haunt the Serian stream, 815

As fearless on it's flow'ry banks she stood,

And fed her silver swans that skim'd the flood,

Surpriz'd

Compressit ripâ errantem, et nil tale putantem,

Dum pascit niveos herbosa ad flumina olores. 650

Tum bicolorem illi buxum dedit, atque pudoris

Amissi pretium, vario ordine picturatam

Argentique aurique gravem tabulam addidit, usumque

Edocuit : Nymphæque etiam nunc servat honorem,

Et nomen ludus, celebrat quem maxima Roma, 655

Extremæque hominum diversa ad littora gentes.

Omnia quæ puero quondam mihi ferre solebant

Seriades, patrii canerem dum ad flumina Serii.



F I N I S.

Surpriz'd unguarded, lost her virgin charms,

Clasp'd in the son of Maia's forceful arms.

Th' enamour'd youth to expiate the deed, 820

And sooth the blushing sorrows of the maid,

Presented to the fair a curious frame,

The scene of mimic war, and field of fame ;

(It's silver rim, with figur'd gold emboss'd,

Enclos'd an ebon, and an iv'ry host ;) 825

Then taught the laws that rule the subtle game,

And crown'd his present with the virgin's name.

The sport records the virgin's honours still,

Dear to the mistress of the sev'n-fold hill,

And, celebrated wide, her fame displays, 830

Where earth's extremes are wash'd by distant seas.

This, from the Nymphs that guard the Serian stream,

In Life's fresh period to their Poet came,

While youthful o'er their silver springs he hung,

And sportive by his native waters sung. 835

